

# Student Survey Shows Buying Alcohol is Easy

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Wasatch County School District approved the survey, and was very helpful in collecting the results.

The results were tabulated by the State Division of Alcohol and Drugs. All results were kept confidential to the participants.

The original survey had 71 questions which dealt with Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The latter part of the survey was put together by the Wasatch Program, and dealt more with emotions, stress, and problems.

According to Dr. Sharon Paradise, Director of the program, the students are under a lot of pressure.

"Most students, on the last part of the survey, reported feeling stressed," said Dr. Paradise. "They are stressed in social, family and religious pressures."

Dr. Paradise stated that the students who are abusing, not experimenting, are a floating crowd. They don't seem to fit into the social cliques.

"What we have is a bunch of students who are under a lot of pressure," stated Dr. Paradise. "They don't fit in with the social groups, they are just floating."

The Drug and Alcohol program will be gearing up in the coming year with further education programs for high school and middle school students, explaining the dangers of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Dr. Paradise stated that the program will be geared toward parents, education people, and civic leaders, to help reverse the trend which the students are now headed.

It appears that the males describe themselves as more heavy drinkers than females.

An additional analysis of alcohol and related social, legal and financial problems was conducted for the sample of actual users. Of these who reported, 86 actually reported experiencing emotional problems, family problems, school and legal problems due to alcohol intake of their own. The 16 year olds reported the most problems with their friends when they drink. The 17 and 18 year olds, 26 of them, pinpointed family problems and physical health problems from their own drinking while the 13 year olds and 14 year olds (18 of them) reported more problems with family and academics. Five times more males reported legal problems and 3 times as many males reported money problems as the females.

Twenty of the 14 year olds and twenty-three of the 16 year olds and forty-one of the 17 and 18 year olds reported emotional problems connected with another person's

abuse. Additional problems for the 15 year olds lay in areas of friends and family who drank. Twice as many females reported emotional

problems as males in regard to another person's alcohol use.

A more indepth look at the legal, and social problems indicate the sharpest rise at age 16 (from 34% to 52%). Ten percent of the population surveyed had an alcohol related arrest in the past 2 years, while 26 percent (or 111) indicated they had not been arrested but had actually driven under the influence of alcohol, while, 68 had driven under the influence of drugs. Across the board, one sees a rapid rise in social and legal problems associated with a rapid rise in drug and alcohol use during those years. Twice as many males as females indicated alcohol arrests in general, with 3 times as many DUI arrest as females.

What about the cost? How can these individuals afford to drink? One hundred percent of the 13 year olds indicate liquor is given to them, (21) at no cost while 407 of ages 14 through 18 report "no cost." Less than 128 of the individuals surveyed indicated they spent under \$10.00 per month on liquor although 300 of the individuals indicated they drink considerable more than that, if someone else buys the liquor. It appears that the alcohol is readily accessible to the individuals surveyed; both male and female.





Tonya Peacock working with a group of 2nd grade students.

PTA is people to adore. We like the PTA. They help us every day. They listen to us read. They know just what we need. They come each holiday, with games for us to play. They always bring us treats. We think they're super neat. Let us say once more--we think PTA means--People to Adore!!

This poem written by students at Midway Elementary School expresses how the staff and students feel about the 50 Parent Volunteers who donate their time and talents to help in the school. On any school day you'll find several parents in the work room helping teachers prepare materials to be used in the classroom. Walking down the red carpeted halls, you'll glimpse a

parent helping, one on one, with a student, or working with a small group of children.

These parents are interested in their children, in their children's school and in quality education. They're willing to relieve the teachers of some of their clerical and remedial duties, enabling teachers to focus their time and energy on teaching children. Many of the Primary grade classes over 30 children in them and these teachers are especially grateful for the help that Parent Volunteers offer.

It's no wonder that the students and teachers at Midway School think PTA stands for People to Adore.

The week of March 5-9 has been declared PTA Appreciation Week, with students honoring the Volunteers with short stories and poems about them and the service they render. To culminate the week a special assembly and dinner will be held at the school on Friday.

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